

LIVE POLITICS IN MODERN CANADA

Wyndham R. Meredith's Impressions of Present Contest.

HEARD SPEECH BY LAURIER

Draws Lesson for Virginia That Two Parties Are Desirable.

Much impressed by the features which characterize the political contest now in progress in Canada, Wyndham R. Meredith has returned to this city from a vacation spent in the Dominion. He talked yesterday of a political gathering which he attended and of the personality of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Canadian Premier.

Reciprocity with the United States is an important factor in the campaign, and of this Sir Wilfrid spoke. He seemed to see the possibility of annexation with this country as a result of trade relations. Such a result is predicted by the adherents of the opposition to reciprocal trade relations.

Mr. Meredith was struck with the absence of personal denunciation in Canadian politics. He attributed this to the fact that there are two parties there, divided on principle. He argues, therefore, that there will be no improvement in the tone of public contests in the United States until we create two parties of nearly equal weight in personal character as well as in numbers.

The Canadian Premier, following is Mr. Meredith's interview.

"Now that the Beattie trial no longer furnishes 'copy' to your excellent staff of reporters, and the senatorial primary, with its attendant bitterness, has become a thing of the past, it may interest your readers to hear how one of their number was impressed by the striking political contest now being waged throughout the Dominion of Canada, and especially by the Liberal leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"In company with other Richmonders whose families were summering in Canada, I attended the great Liberal meeting at Sherbrooke. That town is the most important manufacturing, commercial and railroad centre in five counties of the Province of Quebec. The province is chiefly inhabited by small French farmers. They and their families treated the occasion as one of public festivity, the wives and children crowding the rooms and porches of the hotel opposite the place of the meeting, which the men of the family attended.

Undesirable Hall.

"The meeting was held in the skating rink. It was an unfortunate selection, as the acoustics were bad, and the greater part of the crowd had to stand throughout the exercises. The building was decorated with numerous flags of Great Britain and Canada, and here and there the harp of Ireland was to be seen. Over the speakers' stand were portraits of King George V and his consort. They were cheap chromes. Opposite the stand was an excellent crayon, a full length portrait, of Sir Wilfrid. We heard no reference by any of the speakers to their Majesties and very few to the mother country. It was all Canada and the United States. The motto of the opposition (the Conservative party), which we afterwards saw swung across the street, was: 'We are for United Canada, not for the United States.'

"Our attention on entering the skating rink was attracted to two large mottoes, one at each end of the building, and which gave the keynote of the meeting. The first was 'Canada's Grand Old Man.' Sir Wilfrid Laurier is in his seventieth year and has been in office continuously for fifteen years. The other motto was 'Laurier, le Napoleon de Canada.'

"The proceedings differed from all political meetings in that they were presided over by two chairmen, one to introduce English speakers, the other to introduce the French-Canadian speakers. The speakers were about equally divided as to nationality, as was also the crowd. The Province of Quebec is overwhelmingly French, but the town of Sherbrooke has a large English population. The audience was difficult to hold because of this diversity of language, the French moving up close to the stand when a speech was delivered in French, then retiring, and the English moving up when the address was in English. Two-thirds of

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Sir Wilfrid's speech was in French. There were at least 2,500 persons present, but after Sir Wilfrid concluded the crowd dwindled to less than half that number.

Kept His Hat On. Although we had only seen his pictures, we at once recognized him. This was the more surprising, as his head, which is his most conspicuous feature, was covered. He sat with his hat on like the members of Parliament at Westminster.

"Sir Wilfrid had already made two speeches that day and traveled several hundred miles. His voice was evidently affected thereby. A Canadian friend had spoken of its great carrying power. In this we were disappointed, though it was an instrument of sweetness and flexibility.

"He was not introduced by either chairman, but a gentleman, who was among those on the stand, arose and presented the Premier with an address written in French and engraved on very large thick sheets of paper or parchment, which were tied together with immense streamers of red ribbon. They were the resolutions of welcome and devotion adopted by the League of Liberal Clubs throughout the province.

Kissed Children. "As Sir Wilfrid arose to respond, he was stopped by three little girls carrying a huge bouquet of red roses. This was received with all the grace and light badinage of a Frenchman, whilst each young lady was rewarded with a kiss by the Premier. (Applause.)

"These preliminaries being over, we were given our first opportunity to weigh the qualities and attractions of Canada's foremost citizen. We readily admitted that he seemed a leader of men, and worthy to direct the policies of a great and growing empire.

"His weight about 160 pounds, his height about five feet ten inches, he bore his length of years as if they were a feather. His domelike forehead fringed by his white locks, his most conspicuous feature. His eyes those of the student rather than the active man of affairs, whilst the whole face that impressed us as that of a statesman, the sense of duty well performed and responsibility met without apprehension of failure.

"He was, in dress and appearance, most unlike the typical American politician, especially of the West or of the South. The long black Prince Albert coat was conspicuous by its absence. On the contrary, he was attired in a well-fitting pepper and salt suit that made him appear more youthful, and that accentuated the lines of his slender but erect figure.

Wore Red Tie.

"The cravat, however, was the article of attire that once attracted attention. It was of flaming red and so large that it could be seen like a beacon light from every part of the building. Recalling the black shoe string tie remarked to by Canadian friends, that in the States (as they call us), such a cravat would be fatal to political aspirations. 'Oh,' replied the Canadian, 'Sir Wilfrid always wears a cravat of this color. Red is the Liberal color, as blue is the Conservative.'

"Sir Wilfrid made a happy reference to his own personal appearance. He brought down the house when he appealed to his adherents to follow his white locks in the cause of greater commercial freedom, as the soldiers of Henry of Navarre had so often followed his white plume to victory. However, this comparison has since

been the subject of many a cartoon by the opposition newspapers.

Reminder of Montague. "He strikes one as a clear-headed, virile, persuasive and eloquent leader rather than a man of masterful, unbending will. With the practical common sense of an English political leader, he unites the graces of French oratory. The son of a small peasant farmer, he was born about sixty miles from Sherbrooke. He is proud of his humble origin, and success has not lessened his sympathy with the class from which he is sprung. His style of speaking is epigrammatic rather than logical; persuasive rather than argumentative, and these qualities, united with an unequalled elegance of diction and choice of words, reminded the writer of Governor A. J. Montague at his best.

"On this occasion Sir Wilfrid dwelt but little upon facts and figures, evidently deeming the occasion one for 'whooping the boys up.' The economic side of reciprocity was but briefly considered. In speaking of the fear of annexation by the United States as a result of reciprocity, he reminded his hearers that annexation could only come by persuasion or by force. There was no chance of Canada's consenting and still less of the United States attempting to use force to accomplish that end. 'But you are told that if you go in for reciprocity, and if trade with the United States should afterwards be stopped, it would be very difficult for you to resist the temptation to go into the Union. I do not understand that logic which says that a man will lose his manhood and independence by trading with his neighbors.'

"The fear of annexation be an argument, it is an argument which insults both the intelligence and manhood of Canada."

Changed Language. "With our rusty knowledge of French, the last was the only sentence we were able to make out, aided by the tremendous applause with which it was greeted. What most astonished his American auditors was the ease and precision with which he could turn from one language to the other and speak with the same facility and charm, whether his audience was French or English.

"A distinguishing mark of Sir Wilfrid's address, as well as the speeches of the others, was the absence of personal accusation and arraignment of his opponents. This was, doubtless, because there was no serious ground therefor. That the Canadians value better exemption from the public life of this great Liberal. The breath of scandal has never discolored his bright surface. He is as poor as when he entered upon his public duties; the roof over his head being the gift of admirers.

"In our ears still rang the charges and the proof adduced in support thereof, which filled to the exclusion of everything else, every hustings in Virginia. It was most pleasing to think that in Canada at least there was no reason for such mistrust of the public towards those who occupied the seats of the mighty.

"Whether such charges could have been made or established, the writer is unable to say, though one of the opposition papers spoke of 'the jobs' which the Liberal government had created in connection with the increase of the Canadian navy.

Virginia's Lesson.

"But the absence of such personal denunciation and attack is to be attributed chiefly to the fact that there exists in Canada two parties. They are divided not by factional strife, but by deep and abiding principles; such diverse views as have always separated the Liberal from the Conservative, the Tory from the Whig, the Democrat from the Republican. In Virginia, alas! it is different. We do not divide our party lines; we split into factions of the same party, each faction seeking merely to gratify the personal ambition of some particular leader. No careful student of politics but is convinced that there will be no improvement in the tone of our public contests until we create two parties of nearly equal weight in personnel and character as well as in numbers. As now constituted, the dominant party is a mere jumble of free traders and protectionists, states' rights men and federalists, radicals and conservatives, lovers of property and its rights, lying down with lovers of the people and their rights. Until we have two parties divided by natural cleavage and not the present unholy alliance, we may always expect our political battles to be contests waged merely to gratify personal ambition and not for the wise solution of grave questions in which the mass of the people have a real and abiding interest."

BABY TAKEN FROM COLORED NURSE

Alexandria, Va., September 12.—A pretty, blond-haired and blue-eyed baby of the years, whose Christian name is Elizabeth, furnished the Corporation Court of Alexandria, Va., with a mystery to-day, when Judge Barley interested himself enough in the child to order her turned over from the custody of a colored woman, whose name could not be learned, to a Mrs. Matthews, who also was reticent about her own name and her connection and interest in the affair.

Judge Barley will not tell what he knows about the case. A colored woman, who appeared very much interested in the baby, came to court carrying Elizabeth, who was well dressed, and appeared to be very well kept.

Mrs. Matthews, the judge and the colored woman had a long talk together. The judge wanted to know about the child, but the colored woman was extremely reticent. She finally consented to whisper the name of the child's mother to the judge, who after a while said the name was that of a well-known woman who is not now in Alexandria.

The woman left the baby with the colored nurse shortly after the child was born, three years ago, and has sent a monthly allowance for the child's care. The allowance appears to have been well spent, as Elizabeth is in splendid condition.

The colored woman had grown fond of the baby and was very much averse to giving her up. The court, however, ordered that Mrs. Matthews should be the custodian from now on.

Marriage Licenses. Marriage licenses were issued yesterday to Wesley W. Lee and Norma L. McCarthy, and to Joseph J. Chisholm and Eveling Brooks.

French at University. Rev. F. W. McFreenman, pastor of Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, will preach the opening sermon at the University of Virginia next Sunday.

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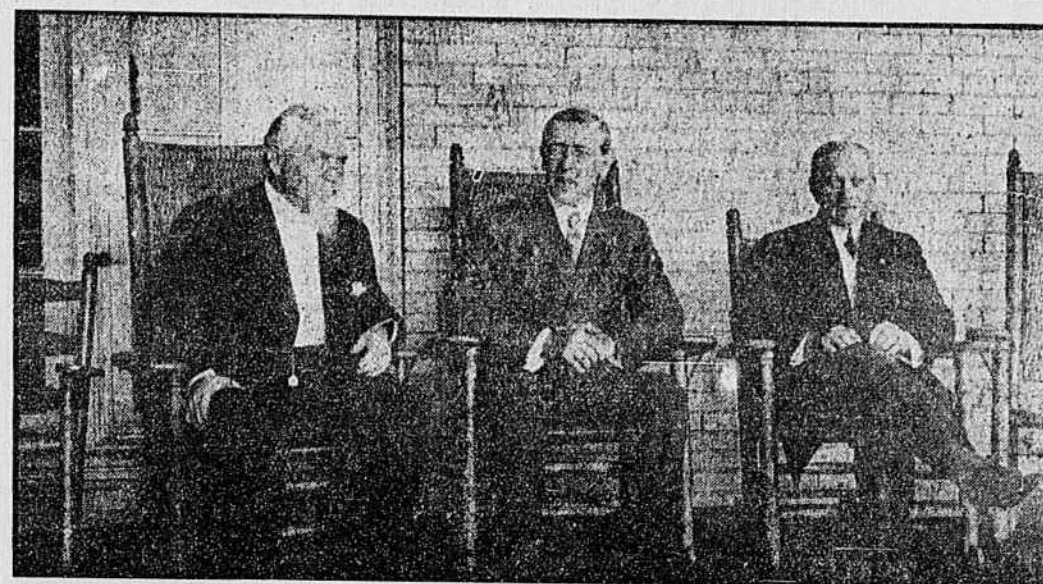
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Other Great Features in This Issue Are:

"The Mirror of Portugal," by Arthur Morrison; "Do Daughters of Eve Know the System?" by Sophie Irene Loeb; "Charlotte Corday," another in the series of "Wonderful Women of the World," by Desher Welch; "Under the Willows," by Linda de K. Fulton; "John Mitchell's Water Bicycle," by Emmett Campbell Hall; "My Best Capture of Kidnappers," by Ralph Micelli; "Wives of the Idols," one of a series of brief personal notes about the wives of great baseball players; "A renewed Acquaintance," by Max Merryman; "The Tube Skirt in Elderberryville," by J. L. Harbour.

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THREE GOVERNORS IN A ROW



Snapshot of three of the Governors who are attending the Governors' Conference at Spring Lake, N. J. Left to right, they are: William Mann, Virginia; Woodrow Wilson, New Jersey, and A. J. Pothier, Rhode Island.

VOTE TO HOLD COTTON FOR FIFTEEN CENTS

Growers, Bankers, Congressmen and Business Men Meet in Montgomery and Take Steps to Force Price Up.

Montgomery, Ala., September 12.—Five hundred farmers and as many bankers, Congressmen, United States Senators and business men, representing every cotton-growing State, declared in convention to-day that the farmers' cotton is worth 15 cents a pound, and resolved that the farmer should hold his cotton for that price. The resolution followed a committee report that the crop in America would not exceed 12,500,000 bales.

For financing the crop of this year, a resolution was adopted to the effect that the farmer should deposit his cotton in a warehouse and use his receipt as collateral until he could sell his product at not less than 15 cents. There was also a resolution that the several State Legislatures provide for a system of bonded warehouses.

Declaring that organization among farmers and co-operation among them with the bankers and financiers was the solution of the problem, the convention resolved itself into a permanent organization, to be known as the Southern Cotton Congress, and adjourned to meet in Atlanta at the call of the president, E. J. Watson, Commissioner of Agriculture of South Carolina.

The meeting in Montgomery is to

be followed by a similar convention in every Southern State, to be called by the Commissioner of Agriculture of each State. By these conventions the action of the congress is to be ratified and reinforced by further steps toward securing a better price for cotton.

Among the speakers to-day were Senator Smith, of South Carolina, who received the thanks of the congress for his attitude toward the government cotton report; Congressmen Hettin and Clayton, of Alabama, and Hughes, of Georgia.

Smith's Speech Decides It. It was Senator Smith who made the speech that decided the congress in its naming the price of cotton at 15 cents. For Congressman Hettin wanted to make the price 15 or 11 cents, with 15 cents as the minimum. Congressman Clayton declared his belief that with 10 years the world would be using 25,000,000 or 30,000,000 bales of American cotton.

President C. S. Barrett, of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union, denounced as baseless the reports of a bumper cotton crop, denied the charge that the Farmers' Union was a combine to hold up civilization, and he asserted that there is a com-

up with his respective Legislature the question of such a department. At certain periods of each year the figures are to be compiled by each State, and then an average of crop conditions, estimates, etc., of all the States together made for publication.

The Department of Agriculture was severely criticized for its inaccurate crop estimates and ginning reports by Commissioner of Agriculture Watson, of South Carolina, and President Barrett, of the South Carolina Farmers' Union.

The following resolution offered by the committee on resolutions was adopted:

"That the Commissioner of Agriculture in each State and each State president and each State secretary of the Farmers' Union shall constitute a campaign committee for their State, whose duty it shall be to employ lecturers and send out literature."

"That the national president of the Farmers' Union and the chairman of this convention and one other member elected by the convention shall constitute a national commission to assist in conducting this work."

"The expenses are to be defrayed by voluntary contributions."

Eat Toadstools and Die.

Western, L. L., September 12.—Two persons are dead and another is dying here as the result of eating toadstools, which were mistaken for mushrooms. The victims were members of the Italian colony.

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